

Currently many species of whales are endangered and losing population. I believe that whales are a vital species and should be protected, even if it means shipping routes must be changed and the costs of ocean transport rise. The whales are worth the extra few bucks any product would cost.

In the Coast Guard's PARS analysis, it should analyze all routing measures put forth by the National Marine Fisheries Service in its Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking put out last Fall. The Coast Guard should also consider expanded protection, which would protect whales within the Cape Cod Bay critical habitat and the adjacent "off race point". Whales enter and leave this vitally important point between May and December each year. It should be relatively easy to shift traffic during that time.

I believe the United States has an obligation to these creatures. We also have the authority, under domestic laws, to regulate shipping coming into U. S. ports. We should put that authority to a good end and help the whales.

Thank you for your time.